

REMARKS

Prior to this Response and Amendment the claims pending in the application were Claims 1(amended three times), 3, 4(amended), 5, 6(amended), 8(amended twice), 9(amended twice), 10, 11, 12(amended three times), 13, 14, 15(amended), 16(amended three times) and 17(amended three times).

After amendment, the claims remaining in the application are Claims 1(amended four times), 3, 4(amended), 5, 6(amended), 8(amended twice), 9(amended twice), 10, 11, 12(amended four times), 13, 14, 15(amended), 16(amended four times) and 17(amended four times).

Claims 1, 12, 16 and 17 stand objected to because of the following informalities: "78.9" should be 78.9%. In response, the appropriate amendments have been made.

Claim 12 stands objected to because of the following informalities: "methyl" in line 7 of the claim should be "methyl methacrylate." In response, the appropriate amendment has been made.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-14, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4,876,311 (HENNIG).

Additionally, Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over HENNIG as stated above for claim 1, further evidenced by US 6,077,575 (MINGHETTI).

The Examiner states the following:

The examiner has carefully considered applicant's amendments and arguments and has carefully reconsidered the applied prior art. While the applicants amendments to claims 1, 12, 16, and 17 to insert various property requirements are

sufficient to overcome the applied US Patent 487631 1 to Hennig et al. as a 35 U.S.C 102(b) reference, the examiner feels that Hennig et al. still reads on applicants claims as a 35 U.S.C 103(a) reference, as it has not yet been established on the record that certain formulations disclosed by Hennig will not necessarily meet the material property limitations that are newly added to the claims.....

Additionally the examiner states:

Further, without wishing to direct or instruct the applicant in any way, the examiner respectfully suggests that the applicant clearly present any unexpected results that may arise from the specific formulation of the instantly claimed resin. A specific comparison of the instantly claimed invention to that of the formulations presented by Hennig would be persuasive. In particular a comparison of the instant invention to a 70% PMMA, 30% polymeric particles (comprising 59% by weight methyl methacrylate, 40% by weight styrene and 1% crosslinking agent) as described by Hennig that clearly shows that the composition of Hennig would be most persuasive, and would establish on the record that the formulation disclosed by the prior art does not necessarily possess the applicants claimed material properties.

In response, the Applicants have again carefully reviewed the references cited and again assert that the cited references do not teach the claimed invention.

The Applicant has considered the comparison between the present invention and the composition suggested by the Examiner and the compositions disclosed by HENNIG, and has the following views.

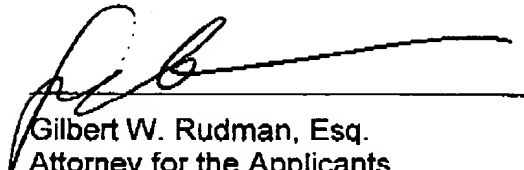
The Applicant expects that a composition comprised, as suggested by the Examiner, of 70% PMMA and 30% of cross-linked particles (comprising 59% by weight of MMA, 40% by weight of styrene, and 1% by weight of cross-linking agent), would result in a product in which the light transmission would be substantially below the minimum

requirement of 78.9% needed in the present invention. Also, articles made from the Examiner suggested composition would have an "opaque", even "ivory" appearance. Additionally, the particle size distribution (20-35um) revealed in HENNIG, column 3, line 7, could not generate the desirable surface texture required in the presently claimed invention because the particles would be too small.

HENNIGS' Example 2 discloses a composition (3.5 part cross-linked beads, 96.5 parts PMMA) used for projection screen applications (column 2, lines 56-61). Products for such use require high light transmission, a glossy appearance and transparency. Thus, the requirements of haze, hiding power, and surface texture for the frosted article of the present invention could be not met by the composition of Example 2. The current application teaches that when the particle loading is below 5%, the parts will be glossy and transparent. If the loading of cross-linked beads (59% MMA, 40% styrene, 1% cross-linked) to increased to 30%, the resulting part would be too opaque to be suitable either for the intended application of HENNIG or the a frosted look of the present claims.

Since the Applicant believes that present claims are directed to patentable subject matter and are written in the proper matter, the Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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